community and said that a stronger impetus should be given to the Mahomedans to improve their lot by a more liberal admission of that community into the public service. So far as the Mahomedans were concerned, the rules for admission into the service should be slightly relaxed for some time and heads of departments should be instructed to give preference to Mahomedan candidates in a greater proportion. The Member advocated the appointment of a Mahomedan Judge in the High Court and the encouragement of those Mahomedans who were already in the service. In conclusion, he requested that the pay of the Mahomedan Munshi in the Alleppey Mahomedan School should be enhanced and the man duly encouraged.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

146. The need for entertaining the Catholic Christians of South Travancore in the subordinate ranks of the State Service.

Mr. D. Francis (Member, Nominated) said that the Catholic Christians of South Travancore were very backward in education and that they had no encouragement so far as the public service was concerned. Even the few Matriculates in the service were completely ignored. There was a clerk in the Medical Department who received no promotion for the past 17 years. He therefore requested that the members of the community should be encouraged and appointed more liberally in the subordinate ranks of the service especially where no special qualification was needed and all heads of departments instructed accordingly.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

147. A more liberal entertainment of all sections of the people in the subordinate service of the State.

Mr. M. D. Daniel (Member, Nominated) pointed out that the Government ought to recognise the right of each and every section of the people to a fair share in the appointments of the public service and that the Government could be really popular only by the practical recognition of the above principle. The Member then spoke of the Police Department and said that the department was not thoroughly representative in its composition and that therefore it lacked in its morale and efficiency. He suggested that in the subordinate service of every department—say below Rs. 30—every section of the people should be represented and he requested that the Government might be pleased to issue the necessary orders in the matter.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

148. The desirability of having a Member every year in the Assembly to represent the Kshatrias.

Mr. Raja Raja Varma Koil Tampuran (Member, Nominated) pointed out that the Kshatria community was not represented in the Assembly every year, and said that it was highly desirable to have a Member every year in the Assembly to represent the interests of that community.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

149. The necessity for the modification of the rules relating to the election of Members for the Assembly, with special reference to the election of Ezhava Members.

Mr. P. Madhavan Vaidyan (Member, Nominated) pointed out that the system of nomination, adopted by the Government, of representatives of certain communities as members of the Assembly, indicated the existence of difficulties on the part of those communities to obtain adequate representation through popular election. That the Assembly should contain representatives of all sections of the people of the State and that it was intended as a popular institution would not be doubted for a moment by any one. But the fact remained that the rules regulating the election of members did not permit certain communities who were in the minority to return their representatives to the Assembly duly elected by popular votes. The procedure for the election of members by the taluks was regulated by the provisions in Schedule A,

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appended to the Rules regarding the constitution and conduct of business of the Assembly. The Member proposed the following modifications to those provisions with a view not merely to secure representation for the said minorities but to widen the popular franchise :—

Proviso I (a).—The ideal of Government ought to be to grant the right to vote to every adult male in the State. With that ideal in view, the Government should gradually extend the franchise instead of limiting it to those who paid an annual land revenue of Rs. 50. The limit should therefore be reduced to Rs. 10 for the present. The Assembly would thereby become more popular than it was at the present day; and the country was really ripe for such an extension of the franchise.

Proviso I (b).—The member doubted if any voter or member has been yet selected on that basis. The people of the State were generally conservative and they would not give out the exact extent of their income. The limitation of the net income to Rs. 2000 was very high and should be reduced to Rs. 500 or Rs. 600. Such a reduction of the minimum would not derogate from the dignity of the voter or the representative selected.

Proviso I (c).—According to that proviso, a Graduate of less than 10 years' standing was debarred from voting or being elected as a member, while a ryot who was young and uneducated was eligible to vote and to be elected as member provided he paid a land revenue of Rs. 50. The distinction was invidious and disastrous. The rule should be so modified as to include all Graduates and other men who had had a decent secondary education. Such a modification was necessary at least so far as the educationally backward communities were concerned.

The Member next proceeded to consider the difficulties experienced by the Ezhavas in electing representatives to the Assembly and to suggest remedial measures for the same. Under the present rules, the Ezhavas would not be able to secure sufficient number of votes and there was hardly an elected representative of the community in any session of the Assembly. The nominated members of the community could not always be regarded as fit to represent the community in general. To remedy the evil, he suggested the creation of separate electorates for the Ezhavas. He contended that the apprehension that separate electorates for minorities would widen the already existing gulf between the different classes was absolutely groundless. He also urged the creation of separate electorates for the several communities in the State. In regard to the special electorate for the Ezhavas, the member suggested the following scheme for the consideration of the Government :—

Out of the 100 members, 16 ought to be Ezhavas according to the proportion of the number of Ezhavas to the entire population of the State. The number 16 might, if necessary, be reduced a bit. The Ezhavas qualified to vote should vote division-war and should elect three or at the least two representatives for each Division. The S. N. D. P. Yogam should also elect one member.

In conclusion, he requested that his proposals might be considered in a sympathetic spirit.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

150. The desirability of allotting two members to the Devicolam taluk.

Mr. Sannyasi Mallayan Chetty (Member, Devicolam taluk) said that the Devicolam taluk was hilly and extensive and that communication between the different parts of the taluk was extremely difficult. The taluk had three distinct parts, *viz.*, the Anjinad tract, the Kannan Devan Hills Concession and the Cardamom Hills. Those three parts differed considerably in very material circumstances. Already the Kannan Devan Planters had a representative in the Assembly, while the other two tracts together had only one member. The Anjinad ryot knew little of the condition of the Cardamom Hills and the ryots of the latter place knew little of the *nancha* and *puncha* cultivation of the former place. Hence a representative from Anjinad or the Cardamom Hills could not adequately discharge his representative function in the Assembly on behalf of the entire taluk. The Member therefore requested that the taluk should be given the privilege to return two representatives to the Assembly—one from Anjinad and the other from the Cardamom Hills.

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